

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542

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From: Director To: Peter Comment's MARCHED

Subj: Charles CP Comments attacked,

See attached

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TP4 of Encl 2

- Forestry Lag Outlease

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# UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542-5001

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FIRST ENDORSEMENT on AC/S, Compt 1tr 7000 COMP dtd 22 Oct 86

From: Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities, Marine Corps Base,

Camp Lejeune

To: Base Maintenance Officer

Subj: FINANCIAL PLANNING AND BUDGET EXECUTION

- 1. Forwarded for review and appropriate action. Request you respond via this office.
- 2. By copy hereof, the Director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division is also requested to comment on para. 4 of enclosure (2).

T. J. DALZELL By direction

Copy to:

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS Marine Corps base Damy Lejemne, Moren Carelina 285/2-5001

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To: | Base Maintenance Officer

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T. J. DALMILL

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## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542-5001

7000 COMP 22 Oct 86

From: Assistant Chief of Staff, Comptroller, Marine Corps Base,

Camp Lejeune

To: Base Maintenance Officer, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune

Via: Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities, Marine Corps Base, Camp

Lejeune

Subj: FINANCIAL PLANNING AND BUDGET EXECUTION

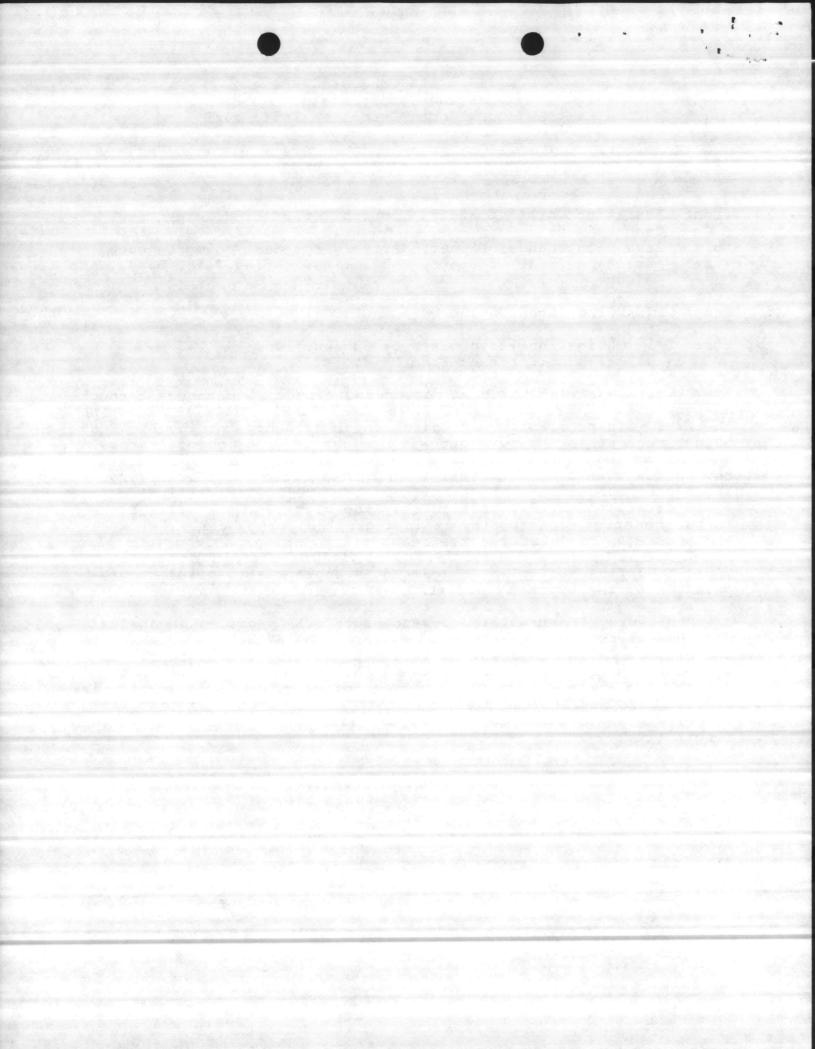
Encl: (1) Obligation Performance by Subfunction

(2) Areas of Interest from FY 86

1. Fiscal year 1986 has been closed and financial managers throughout the command are now involved in the initial stages of executing the FY 87 financial plan. Preparation of guidance for the FY 88/89 budget request is underway and will be out to fund administrators within the next month. At this time we have an ideal opportunity to review the events of last year with the intention of identifying areas for improvement. The timits of this review is critical as the vivid details of FY 86, particularly the closeout, are still fresh in our memories. Therefore, it is requested that you review enclosure (1) to determine the reasons for variances from your plan. Based on the results of this review it is further requested that your FY 87 financial plan be updated as appropriate, prior to preparation of the upcoming budget.

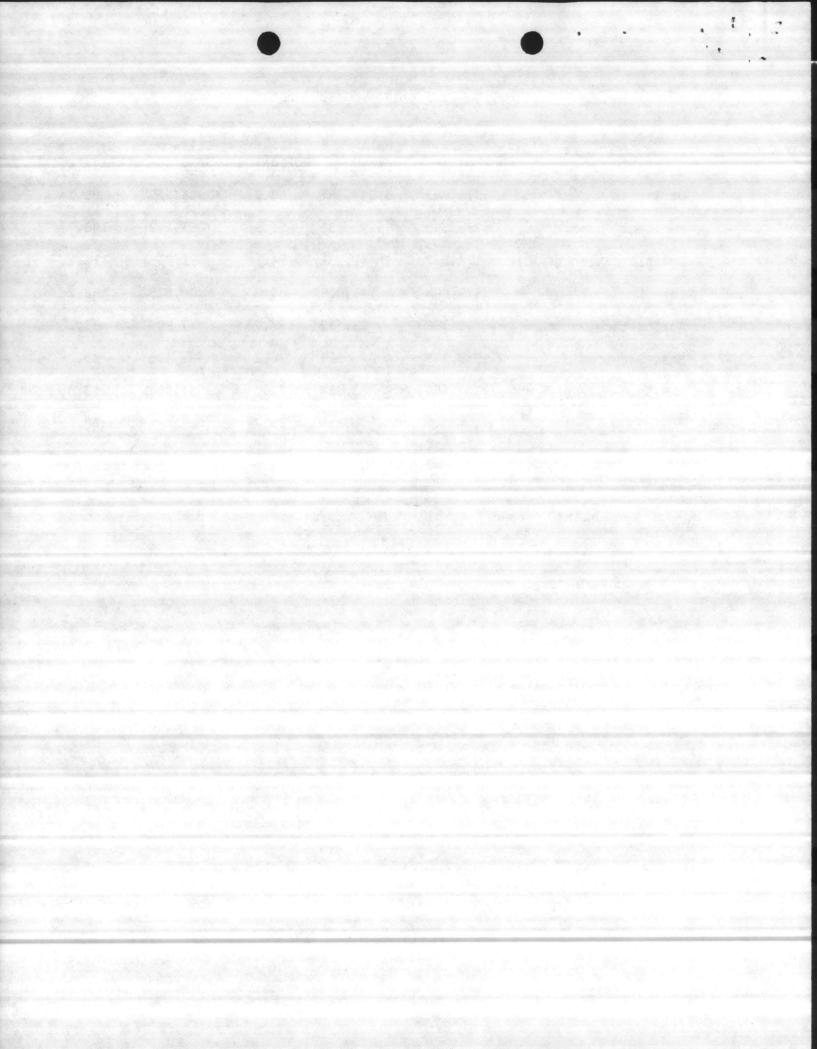
2. Enclosure (1), amplified by enclosure (2), provides an analysis of areas of particular interest regarding the FY 86 budget execution and closeout. Your comments relative to this analysis are requested by 7 November 1986 and will be used to help identify areas where financial management practices can be improved. My Budget staff is available to assist you in any way to improve procedures that will identify problem areas so that adjustments can be made early in the fiscal year.

GK Manady



### Obligation Performance by Subfunction

		Amount Authorized	Balance 30 Jun	% Obligated	Balance 30 Sep	% Obligated
N-1	Utilities	19,315,383	5,947,167	69.2	944,505	95.1
P-1	Engineer Support	2,885,595	791,135	71.9	(251,203)	108.7
D-1	Administration	174,537	( 41,131)	154.1	( 21,215)	112.2
H-2	Forestry	370,000	143,009	64.2	6,535	98.2
н-6	Agriculture Outlease	42,000	13,582	67.7	7,085	83.1
L-7	Base Services	917,275	273,684	70.2	99,485	89.2
S-1	MWR/Bach Hsg/Per Spt	367,456	83,880	71.7	( 37,954)	110.3
Norm				75.0		100.0



#### Areas of Interest from FY 86

#### 1. Utilities

Problem. Budget estimates for utilities appear to have been set too high for the level of actual requirements for the fiscal year: actual electricity costs (less amounts reimbursed to the base by Family Housing and other accounts) for the year were 6 percent below budgeted amounts, and heating fuel usage was over 20 percent below the budget plan. As a result, total cost of the utility function was consistently over 5 percent below budgeted totals.

Corrective Action. Revision to the utilities plan should be effected earlier in the fiscal year in order to ensure the most efficient use of resources, whether the decision unit is in a deficient or excess funding posture. Original budget estimates should be realistic in expectations, but changes to budget plans during execution are acceptable and are an indication that care is taken in monitoring performance and adjusting to changing situations.

#### 2. General Engineering Support

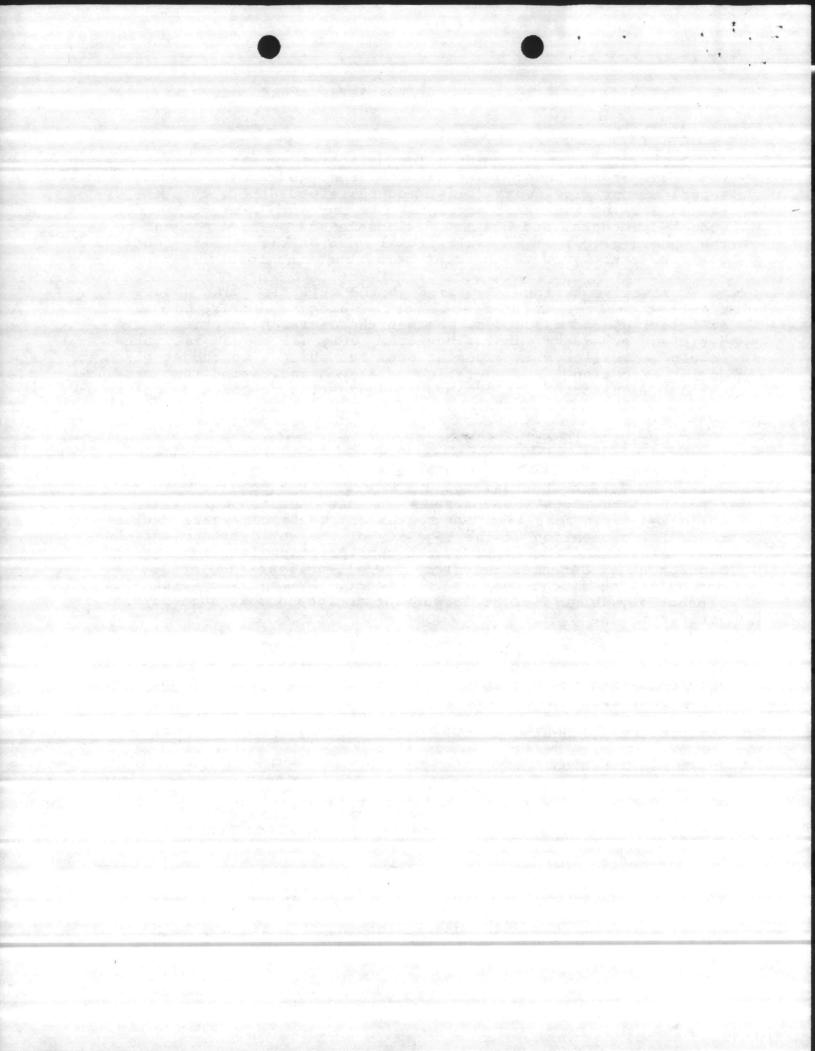
Problem. In the last month of the fiscal year, over \$200,000 was spent for the purchase of dumpsters. As a result, over 20 percent of the total amount spent in this decision unit was obligated during the last two months of the fiscal year. While there is no question of the legality of the obligation or of the need to purchase these items, the appropriation language for the Department of Defenses restricts overall obligations in the last two months of the fiscal year to 20 percent. The mere appearance of impropriety is sufficient to warrant action to make such buys earlier in the year.

Corrective Action. Planned high-dollar procurements should be programmed into the budget to occur early in the fiscal year. Not only does this prevent appearance of excessive year-end spending, but it improves the chances that the items required will be correctly purchased, without placing undue strain on the contracting/purchasing units.

#### 3. Administration

<u>Problem.</u> The cost of installation and maintenance of minor property and classes 3 and 4 plant property items exceeded the budget estimates, despite action taken to realign funds locally.

Corrective Action. The Logistics Department has been advised that every effort should be made to include contractor installation costs in negotiating purchases of equipment items, and to notify the Maintenance Department of requirements for in-house installation in sufficient time to permit budget planning or realignments to be made



to accommodate the additional costs. This should rectify a large portion of the problem. Also, installation costs should be screened to ensure that portions chargeable elsewhere are so identified: e.g., minor construction costs or maintenance to real property costs. Finally, realignments should be planned and executed in a manner that reflects accurate cost estimation.

#### 4. Forestry/Agricultural Outlease

Problem. On an annual basis, funds have either been reverted to Headquarters, Marine Corps, or have been spent in the final months of the fiscal year to buy materials for maintaining roadways or other such projects. In general, the pattern of low obligation rates appears early in the year, while any action to improve the obligation picture occurs very late.

Corrective Action. Once an excess appears to be a reality in these Headquarters' reimbursable accounts, a decision should be made as to whether there are valid requirements that can be addressed with the available funds and a plan to use the dollars should be implemented. The alternative is to offer the money back to Headquarters at the earliest possible time to make the funds available for other commands.

#### Base Services

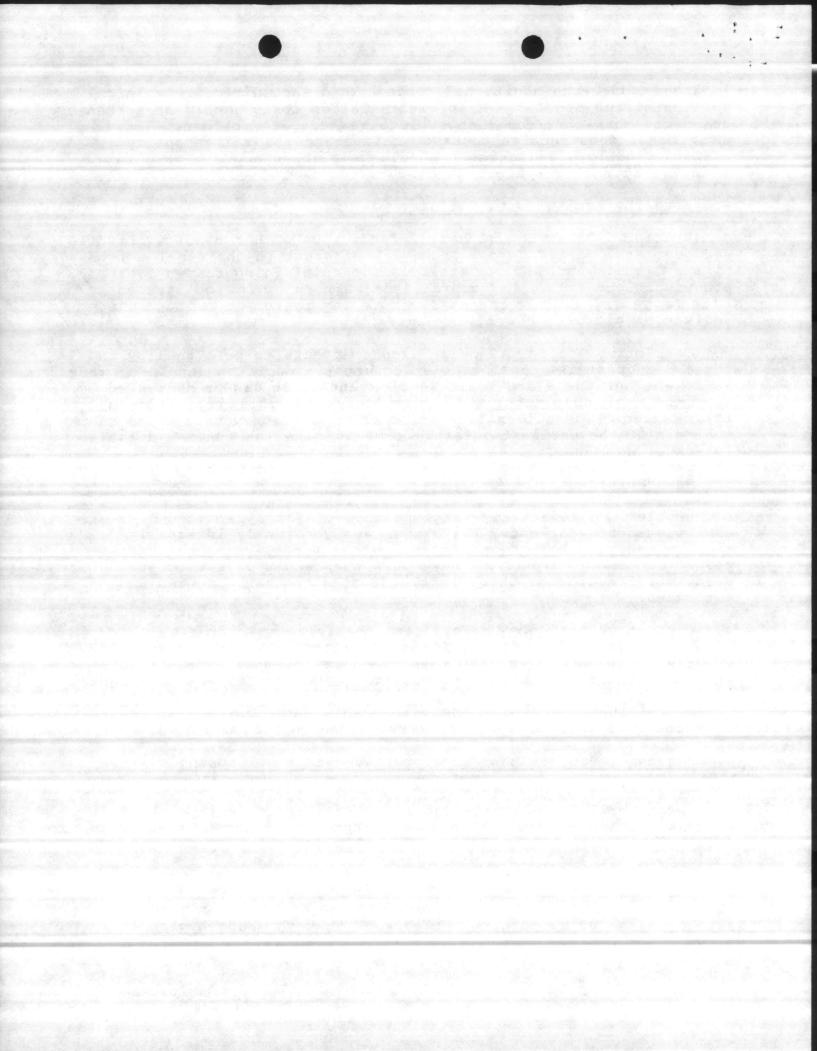
Problem. A relatively large balance of funds remained unobligated at year-end. The excess was apparently internally reallocated to other areas without formally realigning the budget plan. Excess funds seem to have been the result of service transfer credits for equipment usage that were greater than budgeted estimates.

Corrective Action. The problem appears to stem from unanticipated credits for equipment operation. As the amount of credits received was greater than the norm for most of the fiscal year, an effort to realign the budget figures to reflect the higher level of credits being posted would have provided a more accurate picture of the status of funds within this decision unit. Closer monitoring of this area would improve fund control overall.

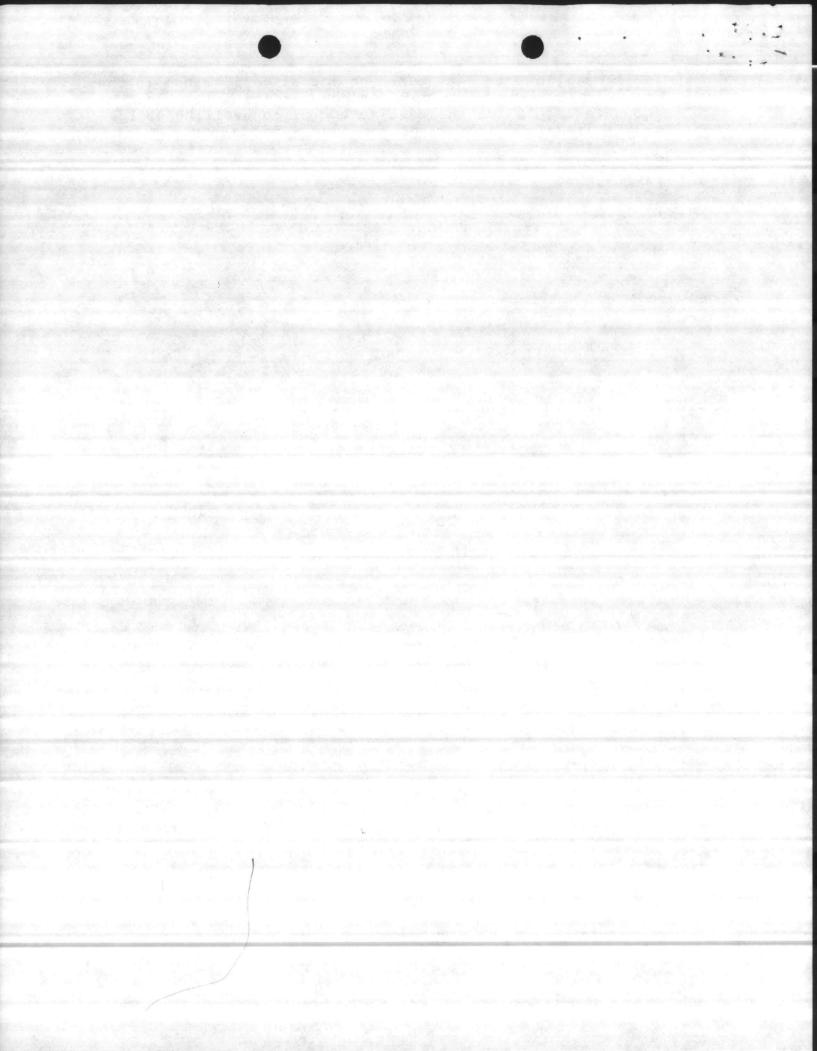
#### 6. Personnel Support/MWR/Unaccompanied Personnel Housing

<u>Problem.</u> This decision unit was consistently above the norm in percentage obligated for the second half of the fiscal year. As in the case of Administration above, actions were taken to realign to correct this over-obligation, but were inadequate to preclude over-obligation for the fiscal year.

Corrective Action. Every effort should be made to ensure that the budget plan correctly represents the needs of the command in the subject areas of support. In the event that the budget plan falls



short, local realignments - as based on actual performance in the fiscal year - that reestablish performance targets or ceilings at more reasonable levels are the best method of controlling obligations for all areas of concern for the fund administrator.



Ruff! Jonks

From: Director, Natural Resources and Envir

Division, Marine Corps Base, Camp Let

To: Assistant Cheif of Staff, Facilities,

Camp Lejeune

Subj: FINANCIAL PLANNING AND BUDGET EXECUTION

Ref: (a) AC/S Fac memo 7000 FAC 31 Oct 86 (b) AC/S Comp memo 7000 Comp 22 Oct 86 / Use AC

- 1. The problem stated in reference (b) paragraph 4, historically has been caused by several reasons.
- a. Over the past several years the Forestry Section has had a large number of positions vacant for extended periods.
- b. Estimation on maintenance costs for equipment and vehicles owned by the Forestry Section have been inaccurate.
- c. Estimates concerning required road maintenance for timber sales is difficult because of the drastic changes that can occur in road trafficability in a short time. When roads are repaired the work is accomplished as close as possible to the contract opening date which is October. This requires forest access road maintenance money to be spent very late in the year.
- d. Estimates of wildfire suppression costs are always based on the worst possible situation and thankfully this in recent years has not materialized.
- 2. Although the corrective action stated in reference (b), paragraph 4, would on the surface appear to be accurate, a basic premice of all natural resources work has been overlooked. All work accomplished by the Forestry Section is seasonal in nature.

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From: Director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

Division, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune

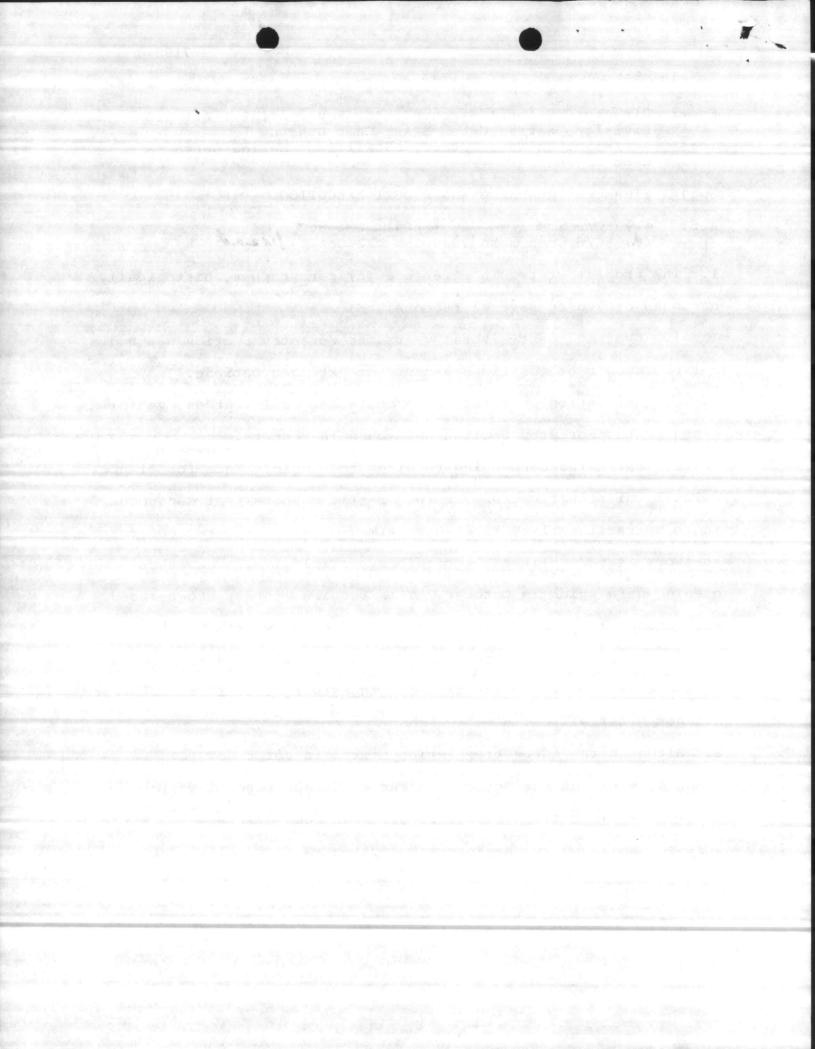
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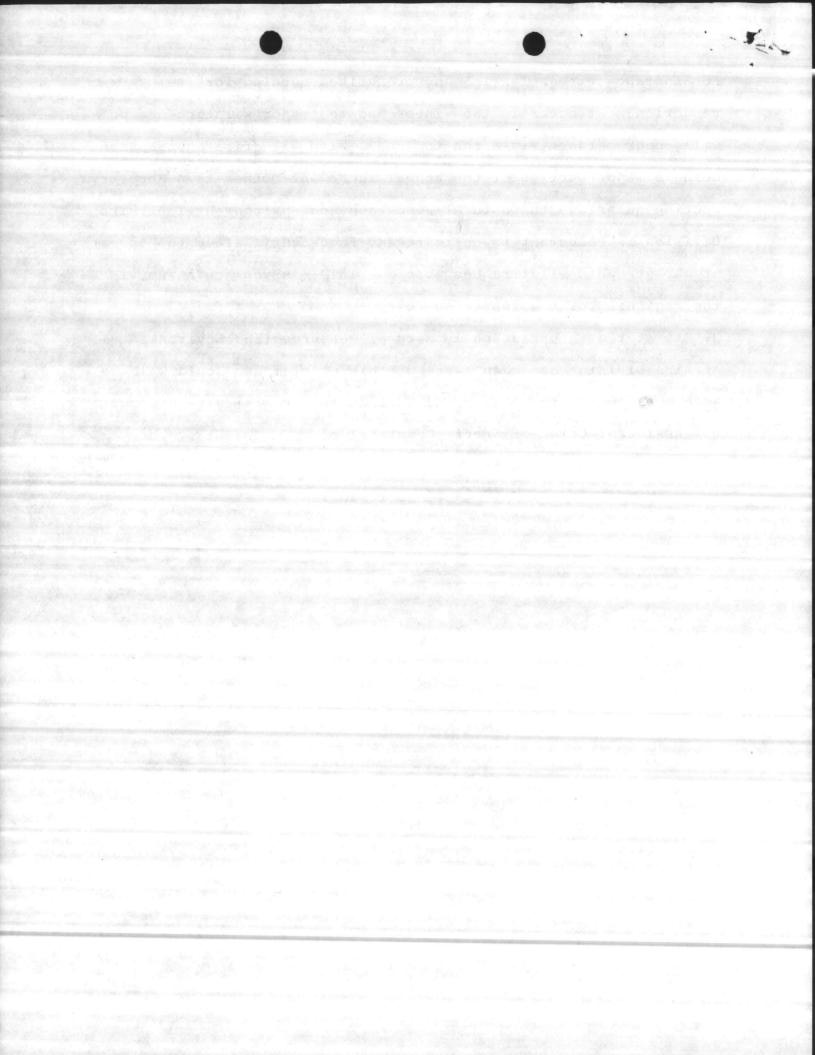
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For instance, tree planting and prescribed burning for fuel reduction must occur in the winter and the major wildfire season will occur between mid-March to June. With wildfire suppression being a major portion of the annual increment, other than Forestry Section salaries, the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division is reluctant to obligate any funds until after the threat of catastrophic wildfire has abated. This, as you are aware, is the beginning of the fourth quarter.

As stated in paragraph 1, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division has been aware of this problem, and would welcome an oppomentunity to discuss and correct the problem with you and the Assistant Chief of Staff, Comptroller.

J. I. WOOTEN



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